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SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 1900.

DECEMBER CIRCULATION.

W. B. Carr, Business Manager of The St. Louis Republic, being duly sworn, says that the actual number of full and complete copies of the daily and Sunday Republic printed during the month of December, 1899, all in regular editions, was as per schedule below:

Date	Copies	Date	Copies
1.....	75,210	17 Sunday	81,300
2.....	76,630	18.....	74,220
3 Sunday	80,060	19.....	75,200
4.....	74,990	20.....	74,240
5.....	74,930	21.....	74,220
6.....	74,460	22.....	74,730
7.....	76,380	23.....	76,695
8.....	75,100	24 Sunday	80,950
9.....	76,075	25.....	79,510
10 Sunday	80,650	26.....	74,660
11.....	75,000	27.....	74,780
12.....	74,950	28.....	74,790
13.....	76,000	29.....	73,900
14.....	77,070	30.....	76,575
15.....	76,640	31 Sunday	82,720
16.....	75,990		

Total for the month..... 2,369,463

Less all copies spoiled in printing, left over or filed..... 61,528

Net number distributed..... 2,307,935

Average daily distribution..... 74,450

And said W. B. Carr further says that the number of copies returned or reported unsold during the month of December was 1.8 per cent.

W. B. CARR.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 24 day of January, 1900.

J. F. FARISH,

Notary Public, City of St. Louis, Mo. My term expires April 26, 1901.

THE WRONG COURSE.

The persistent silence of the persons supposed to be cognizant of hostile operations in the House of Delegates in connection with lighting legislation is entirely indefensible.

It is capable of only two explanations. One of these is that these persons propose to make their disclosures directly to the Grand Jury in order to bring the guilty persons to justice. The other is that these persons are holding their knowledge as a means of gaining some personal benefit.

On every consideration the silence is indefensible. These persons must tell what they know or stand under the condemnation of all good citizens on a par with the hoodlums members of the House of Delegates.

KENTUCKY'S OWN FAULT.

Kentucky has herself to blame for the duel in which three persons were killed and four wounded. The fatal duel was the second occasion on which the same men exchanged shots.

In the former duel one of the men was seriously wounded, but he did not care to prosecute his antagonist, and the State of Kentucky took no notice of the violation of her laws.

When public prosecuting officials allow private individuals to decide whether or not an offense against law and order shall be punished they invite a condition of affairs such as cost the lives of innocent men and inflicted great bodily suffering on others. Had the prosecuting official attended to the proper punishment of the former violation of the law the second fatal encounter would probably not have occurred.

There is a lesson to the prosecuting officers of St. Louis, who have fallen in to the habit of throwing on a prosecuting witness the entire responsibility for invoking the criminal law.

GERMAN SCHOOL GARDENS.

An officer of the United States Department of Agriculture has called attention to a peculiarly attractive educational feature in vogue in German common schools of using a garden attached to the school in teaching botany, gardening, and the elementary principles of farming. The plan has its best exemplification at Alftra, a village of 2,000 inhabitants, in the Rhine Province between Bonn and Cologne.

"Here," says the writer, "plants can be watched in their development from seed to flower and fruitage; the curled leaves on a choice plant may show where an insect has made its home; a heavily laden apple tree may suggest the value of pruning; a few pansies or a resplendent right placed may awaken ideas of beauty. Pupils working among these flowers, pruning trees, or gathering berries from vines planted and filled by themselves, may acquire an interest in nature and husbandry which will remain with them throughout their after life. Certainly they will acquire a practical knowledge of the ways in which fruits, flowers and garden vegetables are planted and cared for which will be of value to them in future, as owners of homes and gardens."

One of the deplorable deficiencies in his early education to which every man brought up in a city awakes sooner or later is sympathetic instruction in natural history as the farmer meets it.

The city man cannot distinguish wheat from oats as it grows in the field; he does not know when a tree or a spring will give him water or when it will not; he knows how corn is planted, or that wheat is sown in the fall, but he does not know how or why this is done. He cannot distinguish between a narrow and a bay-rake. Often the early deficiency in his education makes him blind to this attractive class of knowledge for life. Only if he hunts or fishes or moves into the suburbs and lays out a vegetable garden is he likely to learn later in life what was closed to him in the childhood time when observation was closest and appreciation keenest.

The German plan of the school garden is a good one. It could be applied in all countries with advantage.

ITS OPPORTUNITY.

There is an unusual opportunity for the rendering of great public service now before the newly elected officers of the Jefferson Club of St. Louis, under whose direction the record of that organization at a most critical period in local history is to be established.

The matter of municipal reform should be taken up by President Hawes and his associates in the Jefferson Club with the definite purpose of cooperation with the best elements of all parties in securing good government in St. Louis. The time is singularly fitted for a work of this nature, and the field is singularly open for the concentration of endeavor in this direction.

This exceptional chance to devote its efforts to municipal reform cannot have escaped the attention of the men now at the head of the Jefferson Club. In the State campaign there is no contest for Governor that calls for special effort. The favorite candidate being already plainly indicated, nor is there any division of party sentiment on political issues. In the municipal field the presidential nomination is hardly a matter of doubt, and the national platform is already clearly outlined. The leading Democratic organization in St. Louis is, therefore, enabled to an extraordinary degree to centralize its work for the good of the local community.

The promise of party benefit sure to follow this policy is great indeed. The strongest possible foundation for a successful reorganization of the Democratic party in St. Louis would be a record of distinguished service in the election of a strong and clean local administration which would be followed by a vast system of public improvements in preparation for the World's Fair. This service would most powerfully commend the party to local favor, confirming its claim to be so truthful a proof of its willingness to rise above partisanship that none could deny its devotion to the general welfare.

It is earnestly to be hoped that the Jefferson Club's new officers will wisely improve the opportunity thus offered. The chance for service of such genuine benefit arises from a combination of circumstances not likely to be repeated.

Considerations of faithfulness to people and party demand this course on the part of the Jefferson Club, a potent factor in local political affairs. The matter is earnestly recommended to the consideration of President Hawes and his fellow-officers in the club.

ITS BEST FACE BAD.

In his recent testimony before the Industrial Commission John D. Rockefeller, president of the Standard Oil Company, pioneer trust builder, put the best face possible on the trust system and the face was not attractive. In his enumeration of the advantages resulting from trusts he failed to show that the mass of the people was in any way benefited by them. Follow his enumeration:

First—Command of necessary capital for great improvements, like pipe lines, railroad tank cars and tank steamers for oil transportation. These magnificent industrial advances would have come under competition just as surely as railroad lines, which require greater capital than pipe lines. Even then, if such improvements do not lower prices, but only increase the profits of trust builders, they confer no benefit on the general public.

Second—Extension of limits of business. Such extension would come under competition more surely than under combination. With competition it would be a jump of manufacturers to get to the new business first.

Third—Increase of the number of persons interested in the business. Considering the number of small manufacturers thrown out of the business entirely, the number interested cannot be said to be increased.

Fourth—Economy in business. If greater economy results only in increasing profits and not in lowering prices, the greater economy is of no benefit to the people.

Fifth—Improvements and economies which are derived from knowledge of many interested persons of wide experience. These persons of wide experience would probably achieve better results if their wits worked under the spur of active competition.

Sixth—Power to give the public improved products at lower prices and still make profit for stockholders. The trust system undoubtedly confers this power, but power and performance are different things. Trusts do not lower prices.

Seventh—Permanent work and good wages for laborers. The trust system may insure these advantages for the diminished number of employees retained. It certainly has not insured permanent work at good wages for commercial travelers.

CHARTER SAFEGUARDS.

Some members of the House of Delegates are trying to place the blame for late troubles on the provision of the City Charter which prescribes that all bills for public improvements shall originate with the Board of Public Improvements and that the Municipal Assembly shall not amend these bills, but must accept or reject them as they come from the board.

Since the present administration took charge of the affairs of St. Louis citizens have and reason to think their stars for the Charter with which farseeing forefathers protected the city. The provision of the City Charter which prohibits the Municipal Assembly from changing or originating a public improvement bill is one of the safeguards of which events like the present show the value.

It is this provision of the Charter which prevents the Municipal Assembly from farming out the filtration of St. Louis's water to a private corporation controlling some patent filter device. Had the Assembly absolutely controlled public improvement bills, St. Louis might not have been thrown into darkness, but the chances are that we should

be enduring some corporate burden worse than the darkness.

Soon after the present administration took charge the people showed by their vote what they thought of changing the Charter to suit the politicians. When Charter limitations begin to prove irksome to the servants of a city, then, more than at any other time, are those limitations needed.

NOT WISE.

The memorial sent to Congress by the authorities of the Missouri State University at Columbia, with the approval of the Missouri State Teachers' Association, asking that public schools for the whites in the Indian Territory be established by the Government, is lacking in due appreciation of the great work on which the Government is now engaged in the Territory.

The Federal Government is working at present to abolish the tribal relations which the Indians and their American nation. It has planned to end the tribal government under which the Indians now live, allotting to each member of a tribe a certain portion of land to hold as his private property subject only to such restrictions as shall keep him ignorant of the value of his holding, from disposing of it for an inadequate price. Arrangements to this end have already been made with some of the Five Civilized Tribes and negotiations with the others have progressed so far as to promise completion within a year. When these negotiations are complete it is proposed to erect the Indian Territory into a State.

The effort, therefore, for the Federal establishment of public schools in the Territory is ill-timed. Even with energetic work it would be decades before the proposed Federal public schools would be in perfect running order. To make the system successful would require years of planning and experimenting and a great expenditure of money. Before the system could be established the Territory would have become a State.

The establishment of a complete network of public schools by the Government would deprive the prospective new State of its first incentive to progress, energy and activity. The shifting of the burden of educating its young would materially lessen the self-reliance of the population. Let it shift this burden to the general Government and in every future complication it will turn in the same direction for help. That education is best which teaches self-reliance and self-help, whether to a child or to a community.

Even the plea that there can now be no taxation in the Territory is not sufficient. Any aggregation of individuals which wants a public school can raise funds for it by private contribution which will be in effect a public tax. There are schools supported by tuition fees now in operation in the Territory.

The project is impracticable and its only result would be a waste of Government funds.

AN AMERICAN CANAL.

Senator Morgan's report of the Senate Committee on the Nicaragua Canal bill, it should be hoped, will result in the passage of that bill during the present session of Congress.

The merits of the Nicaragua Canal enterprise, as contrasted with those of the recently Americanized Panama Canal, are already generally acknowledged. The undertaking has been approved and urged by the two great political parties of this country. The forthcoming report will doubtless recommend immediate action, and it is difficult to see why action should be longer delayed.

There is reason to believe, however, that a powerful lobby influence will be brought to bear in Washington against the passage of the Nicaragua Canal bill. Of course, will be done in the interest of the Panama Canal project, now in the hands of an American syndicate of heavy capitalization.

The influence of this lobby has already been felt as affecting the progress of the Nicaragua work.

Nevertheless, with the administration favoring the latter, the Americanized French movement should not develop strength sufficient to block the passage of the Nicaragua bill shortly to be reported to the Senate. It should now be safe to assume that the measure contained in the recent organization of the Panama Canal Company of America will fail to materialize.

It is too much to ask that every municipal department in St. Louis be reorganized in order that Council President Meier's son shall hold his job as Supply Commissioner.

Lord Dundonald's cavalry is again proving that in the tactics of modern warfare the foot soldier doesn't trot in the same class as his mounted fellow of carbine and sabre.

Good citizens will cooperate with every efficient striving for local municipal reform. They will as promptly condemn all who oppose it either by action or inaction.

In its absence of organized leadership of the movement for good government the Jefferson Club has an opportunity which it would be criminal to neglect.

It won't be a difficult task for the voters of St. Louis to elect a permanent extinguisher over the political spark of a one-candle-power Mayor.

They call anything a battle in the Transvaal. A warm West Virginia feud would call in thrill and drama most of the collisions yet reported.

When Gage follows Yerkes to New York Chicago will begin to be really jealous. Trusts are fashionable and Chicago wants the big guns.

England treats us a bit more cavalierly than she treats Germany in the matter of the Delago Bay seizures. But then we're kinkfoks.

Get Good and Ready. Don't shoot just for sport. No! It's a whole new idea. It's for you to shoot. For you to shoot. For you to shoot.

But what is the object of the convention? And how is it to be held? And how is it to be held? And how is it to be held?

We know what we will be. And we know what we will be. And we know what we will be. And we know what we will be.

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TRAGEDIES OF THE ROAD FOR ONE NIGHT STAFF.



ALL THE WORLD ON A STAGE.

Mr. Sothern is to appear in a novelty at the Olympic Theatre to-morrow night—a novelty for him and a novelty for us. "The Sunkin Bell" is as far away from "The Song of the Sword" as "Uncle Tom's Cabin" is from "Lady Windermere's Fan"—even farther. It is unlike any play we have ever seen in an English playhouse in St. Louis. It is a play presented, with motive and problem—mostly the last. It is a play of the printed book, which has been widely read—especially sweet. Its poetry is of a high type, its story not always clear to those who do not use metaphors in daily conversation. Contrast this, if you will, to the strenuous type of drama in which we have long known and loved Sothern, and get yourself ready for a surprise to-morrow evening.

Just as Nat Goodwin has elevated Maxine Elliott, through the medium of publicity at an actor's disposal, so has Mr. Sothern elevated his wife, Miss Harriet. But the difference in the individuals is marked. Miss Harriet is and always has been a more capable actress than Miss Elliott ever will be. She is not as beautiful, but ever will be that, but she is sweeter and less conventional in her physical charms, which, after all, is more to the liking of most people. Her voice, her hair, her stage conduct, are all very charming, and convincing, but she is convincing. In last week's bill Miss Harriet was as important. In her feminine way, as Mr. Sothern, let join in a general hope that the usual course of stage marriages will not follow in the case of this well-matched pair.

It is a fact more than merely worth noting that Mr. Sothern is soon to try Hamlet. Of course it will be a complete and satisfying performance, as well as one unique. Think of Mr. Sothern reciting the soliloquy and the famous "To be, or not to be" speech with those regulation accents of his. Mr. Mansfield, too, proposes to essay Hamlet. I don't know just when or where, but the news, as far as it goes, is reliable.

Felix Morris died last week. He was a good man and a good actor who knew and felt a good deal of the dramatic art. There was about his work a good deal of the hardness and unmercifulness of which there is frequent complaint as to Mr. Mansfield, but he was at all times sincere and even when he seemed a wooden man in certain of his most human and intentional characterizations there was about his performance an earnestness that commanded and not repelled. Felix Morris married a Hamlet. Mr. Gail and did what few married people do—made a play of his life. He worked hard to become a natural, striving against extraordinary natural timidity on his own part and family opposition without. He tried several professions, always breaking away from them for the stage door. He finally got in. Though an Englishman born, he made his first and only really great success. The play was "On Change," in which he played a countryman—a sort of "brother from Sheffield" part, with a dialect that only English folks could understand. "On Change" was tried at a matinee, in the presence of the London custom, with little hope on the part of its backers, but it ran for something like the night—a very long run for that time—twelve or fifteen years ago, I should say, probably longer. He was successful as a co-star with Rodina Vokes, through several American seasons, following with three or four years on his own account. He played short plays—three in an evening. There was "The Rose," "The Old Muslin," "A Game of Cards," "Behind the Scenes," "A Scrap of Paper," and two or three others. He was a good actor, but he was not a great actor. He was loved by many, for his art and heart were clean. His little world—the stage world—needs more men of whom this may be said. We are sorry, therefore, that he is gone.

"Mademoiselle Bill" has left the Century Theatre, giving away to Mr. Melbourne MacDowell and Miss Blanche Walsh, in serious—very serious drama. The play was "The Sunkin Bell," in which Mr. Sothern played the part of the hero. It was a play which had been tried at a matinee, in the presence of the London custom, with little hope on the part of its backers, but it ran for something like the night—a very long run for that time—twelve or fifteen years ago, I should say, probably longer. He was successful as a co-star with Rodina Vokes, through several American seasons, following with three or four years on his own account. He played short plays—three in an evening. There was "The Rose," "The Old Muslin," "A Game of Cards," "Behind the Scenes," "A Scrap of Paper," and two or three others. He was a good actor, but he was not a great actor. He was loved by many, for his art and heart were clean. His little world—the stage world—needs more men of whom this may be said. We are sorry, therefore, that he is gone.

The success of Miss Walsh, following the late August Davenport in the famous repertoire played by that actress, has been astonishing. Generally, in cases like this one, all of the chances are against a continuation of the old idea in new hands. Miss Davenport was generally believed to be the life and soul of her great theatrical enterprise. It would seem that this general impression was a mistaken one. Miss Walsh's success is of the undoubted sort. If she continues in energy and ambition she may in time fully occupy the high position held by Miss Davenport.

The Castle Square management evidently give a large return for money invested in seats. For two or three weeks there were a picking up in the strength of principals. Last week saw the return of De Treville, N. Wood and Sheehan are to come back, and while Miss Bell is to be away for awhile, she may be counted on for the spring campaign. Permanent English opera in St. Louis is now a thing assured. The Savoy-Southwell management seems to be in all ways prepared.

Two notable plays of the week in New York were "Brother Officers," an English Army drama, and "The Degenerates," a play of the forbidden school, presenting Mrs. Langtry. Good critical opinion is to the effect that the first is a capital play, with real heart interest and much of novelty in various ways. The same opinion agrees that "The Degenerates" is constructively interesting and ingenious, while hopelessly impossible in atmosphere. Which means, I respectfully suppose, that it will succeed, with "Sapho," while "Brother Officers" will go as the unenthusiastic way of "Trelawney of the Wells."

There he went to Mr. Daniel Freeman in "Trelawney of the Wells."

Host's "A Stranger in New York" will be produced at the Grand Opera-house during the week of February 11. Heretofore this farce has been seen only at high-priced houses.

Harry Lockstone, who sang the role of Sir Henry Ashton in "Lulu," last week will be heard in "Romeo and Juliet" this week. Mr. Lockstone was some years back by the road estate fever and is loaded with lots of money. He is now in the United States, where he has struck a boom town in the Rocky Mountain district. He was met at the station by a typical boomtown with a buckboard and pair and was taken to the most eligible lot in the town. It was by the side of a steep hill with a fine view to boot. Harry looked at it, and said:

"Why, that lot of land will set up elegantly. You could never build a home on it, and you can't reach it unless you buy it, but I'll tell you what I'll do, I'll buy that lot, if you can name one single advantage that it possesses."

The boom grew red in the face, but presently faded. "Advantage? Great Scott, man! Look at its drainage!"

Gerhardt Hauptmann, author of "The Sunkin Bell," in which Mr. Sothern will appear at the Olympic Theatre to-night, gave a very little promise of great authorship in his youth. His teachers regarded him as a hopelessly lazy and by no means brilliant student, and his father, a substantial innkeeper, acted with them. Carl, his younger brother, had more faith in him, and he was determined to succeed in every way to accomplish his mission. Years later, when he received the first copy of "Before Sunrise," his faith was rewarded. Ten years elapsed between the production of the first play and "The Sunkin Bell," which is pronounced his masterpiece. "The Sunkin Bell" is a fairy drama. It is plentifully interspersed with music composed by Alce Lachaux of the Paris Conservatory.

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